GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1606
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Poaching of Wildlife
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of wildlife and endangered species like tigers, leopards, on-horned rhinos, exotic birds and reptiles is on the rise in and around the National Parks of the country;
(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year. Category and National Park-wise;
(c) whether cases of smuggling of animals and their body parts have also been reported in the country and if so, the details thereof during the said period, State and year-wise;
(d) the details of the action taken by the Government to punish wildlife poachers and smugglers involved in trading of animals and their body parts and protect the wild animals along with the steps taken for effective implementation of laws and coordination amongst the various agencies; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to launch any awareness campaign with an aim to spread general awareness among people about the serious poaching problem and the need to protect the endangered animals and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) The management and protection in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country is carried out by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. Reports of death including poaching of endangered wild animals are received in the Ministry from time to time. However, there is no concrete report indicating an increasing trend in poaching of such wildlife.

(c) Data pertaining to smuggling of animals and animals parts state-wise is not compiled by this Ministry. However, the number of cases of violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 detected at different exit points during the last 3 years as reported by Regional Offices of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) are as follows:

Year NR ER SR WR Total
2013-14 11 22 8 8 43
2014-15 23 3 3 7 36
2015-16 12 3 5 11 31
2016-17
(upto 30.6.2016)
1 1 - 4 06
NR: Northern Region: SR: Southern Region:
ER: Eastern Region: WR: Western Region

(d) The important steps taken by the Government to control poaching and prevent illegal trading of animals and their body parts and protect the wild animals in the country are as follows:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. Endangered species of animals including Tiger, Elephants, Lion, Rhino, etc are listed under Schedule −I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.

iii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, provides for stringent. punishments for wildlife offences. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

iv. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products, by coordinating with the States and also with border and trans border authorities.

v. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

vi. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of its habitat.

vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(e) The Government through the WCCB regularly conducts sensitization/awareness programmes on wildlife related issues for the Panchayati Raj members and other stake holders in and around the tiger reserves. WCCB has conducted following programmes in the last three years in various parts of India:

Year No. of programmes No. of PRI representatives sensitized

2013-14 31 1235
2014-15 36 1596
2015-16 44 2425
2016 (up to 30.06.2016) 03 143

Further Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has also organized training courses for enhancing awareness about environment, forest and wildlife. A total of 32 training courses (2382 participants) have been organized since 2011-2016.

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